



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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DEQ SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH CONOCO TO REDUCE AIR POLLUTION

LAKE CHARLES, The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced today its participation in an environmental agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Justice Department and Conoco Inc. that will significantly reduce air emissions from four of Conoco's petroleum refineries, including their Lake Charles Refinery.

"We were very pleased with the comprehensive settlement which will result in cleaner air for the citizens of Lake Charles," stated R. Bruce Hammatt, Administrator of DEQ's Enforcement Division.

The national agreement settles allegations of violations of the Clean Air Act and the State Implementation Plan and will result in a \$250,000 cash payment to DEQ. Encompassing violations that were previously being addressed solely by the DEQ enhanced the national settlement.

As a result of the settlement, Conoco will install and use new pollution control equipment and procedures such as incorporating improved leak detection and repair practices and making other emissions-control upgrades to decrease their emissions.

Under the agreement, Conoco is required to install and implement the additional control equipment and procedures at the Lake Charles Refinery that is estimated to cost \$14,500,000. The additional control equipment and procedures will decrease emissions from stacks, wastewater vents, leaking valves and flares.

The control equipment and procedures, to be installed and implemented over the next eight years, should result in decreases of 670 tons per year (TPY) of nitrogen oxides, 635 TPY of sulfur dioxide, and 20 TPY of volatile organic compounds in Lake Charles.

Nitrogen Oxides, also known as NO_x, is a precursor to ozone and includes nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), a gas known to be harmful to lungs. Sulfur dioxide, when released to the atmosphere, may combine with excess water vapor and oxygen to become sulfuric acid, which is harmful to plant life and irritates the respiratory system.

The settlement also requires Conoco to spend \$500,000 on state Beneficial Environmental Projects and \$400,000 on federal Supplemental Environmental Projects that will improve the environment for citizens of Louisiana.

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“This cooperative settlement requires the use of innovative control technologies and enhanced procedures that should significantly reduce air emissions and benefit the environment,” said DEQ Secretary J. Dale Givens.

The states of Colorado, Oklahoma and Montana are also joining the settlement, which is part of a national effort to reduce harmful air pollution released from refineries.
